

### HANDOUT 9.1 –DEFINITIONS OF TERMS USED IN FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

<b>Catch</b>	The harvest of fish species at any given time from any fishery area, or from any fishery species or group of fishery species, or a combination of area and species.
<b>Cohort</b>	Those individuals of a population born (hatched) in the same reproductive period.
<b>Larval phase</b>	The stage after an organism emerges from the egg, before it has an adult form. An animal in this stage is called a larva (plural: larvae).
<b>Mortality</b>	The rate of deaths in a population. Usually this is expressed as the percentage of the stock that dies in one year. Total mortality (Z) = fishing mortality (F) + natural mortality (M).
<b>Nursing ground</b>	A marine or aquatic area where juvenile fish settle. For example, coral reefs are nursing grounds for many species.
<b>Plankton</b>	Small floating or weakly swimming organisms that drift with water currents.
<b>Recruitment</b>	The addition of new individuals to a stock of fish. This may also refer to additions to just the part of the stock that is fished. For example, “recruitment to the fishery” refers to fish that have become large enough to be caught, and this is determined by the size and age at which they are first caught.
<b>Settlement</b>	The part of a habitat where most of a species stays.
<b>Sources and sinks</b>	A source is an area from which juveniles come (e.g., an area where larvae hatch). A sink is an area in which many juveniles settle.
<b>Stock</b>	A group of individual fish that can be regarded as a single unit for management or assessment purposes. A stock may be an entire species, a part of a species that occurs in a certain area, a separate breeding population of a species, or even a group of different species.
<b>Trophic level</b>	A position in a food web, determined by the number of energy-transfer steps to that level.
<b>Yield</b>	The total catch of a particular species or group of species, over a certain time or in a certain area.

*(modified from PH-6, 2001)*